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CONFIDENTIAL CONTROL

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY Germany

DATE: 25X1X6

INFO.

SUBJECT Current SED Attitudes to Past and Future Elections

DIST. 30 October 1946

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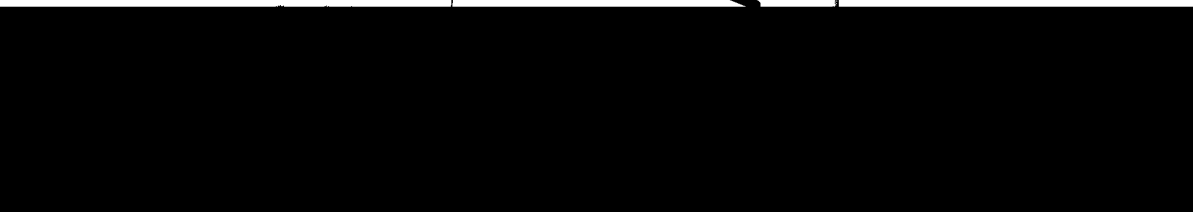
ORIGIN

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This document is hereby regraded CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 10 October 1973 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

PAGES

SUPPLEMENT



B-2 1. At a meeting of the SED Central Secretariat, the election results in Saxony were discussed and the following views were advanced. reports that, at first, the Central Secretariat was very pessimistic over the election results, since it had counted on receiving 58-60% of the vote and had expected to receive majorities in the cities. SED leaders felt that they had gained no ground since 1932. The majority of anti-SED Social Democrats preferred to vote for the CDU or the LDP than to void their own ballots.

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2. that the SED is confident of ultimate success, since it did emerge from the recent election as the strongest party. SED leaders believe that many refugees who voted against the SED in order to protest against the Russians will come to realize that they belong to the proletariat and that, therefore, they owe their vote to the SED rather than to the bourgeois parties.

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3. the SED is very disappointed over the election results. However, party leaders intend to seize the reins in the zonal government which is to be formed after the 20 October 1946 elections. The SED expects to control the zonal government completely, regardless of whether or not it obtains a majority in the election.

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4. reports that Ulbricht urged that provincial assemblies be elected not later than 20 October 1946 so that a possible SED defeat in the Berlin election could not influence the voters in the provinces. States in the Soviet Zone which, thus far, have been called "Länder" are to be called "provinces" after 20 October. (Land Saxony and Land Thuringia are cases in point. The present Province of Saxony apparently will be called the "Province of Central Germany". See . According to informant, the purpose of this move is to prepare the way for uniform constitutions throughout the zone. In the discussion, it was suggested that a zonal parliament be introduced as the answer to the British-U.S. Zone union.

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5. reports that Ulbricht was strongly opposed to holding the elections at this time. while it is true that Soviet displeasure over the progress of the municipal elections has been forcefully expressed to Ulbricht, there is no evidence whatever that the SMA is thinking of replacing him at this time.

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